

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing an immunologic food sensitivity comprising the steps of:
collecting a fecal sample;
screening the fecal sample to detect the presence of an IgA antibody to a particular food substance; ~~and~~
diagnosing an immunologic food sensitivity based on the presence of the antibody; and
diagnosing an ailment, wherein the ailment is related to the immunologic food sensitivity.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of concentrating the fecal sample to obtain a testing portion after said collecting step and wherein said testing portion is the sample in said screening step.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the testing portion is undiluted.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of homogenizing the fecal sample prior to said concentrating step.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the testing portion is about 20 grams.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said screening step utilizes an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) testing kit to detect the presence of an antibody to a particular food substance.
7. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said screening step utilizes an enzyme-linked immunosorbant assay (ELISA) testing kit to detect the presence of an antibody to a particular food substance.
8. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said concentrating step comprises the steps of:

centrifuging the fecal sample;
removing a supernatant portion from the centrifuged fecal sample; and
using the supernatant portion as the testing portion.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the centrifuging step is performed at a rotation speed dependant upon the viscosity of the sample.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the rotation speed is between about 13,500 and 20,000 rpm.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the testing portion is screened undiluted and is about equal to an amount of diluted serum required by standard use of an ELISA kit.

12. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said concentrating step comprises the steps of:

freeze-drying the fecal sample to a solid material; and
reconstituting the solid material with water to form a reconstituted testing portion.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein said reconstituted testing portion is about 25% solid material and about 75% water.

14. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said fecal sample contains more than about 90% water in its excreted state and wherein said concentrating step comprises the steps of:

freeze-drying the fecal sample to a solid material; and
reconstituting the solid material with water to form a reconstituted testing portion.

15-34. (Cancelled)

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~34-1~~ wherein ~~said related disease or disorder~~ the ailment presents similar symptoms as said immunologic food sensitivity.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein said symptoms are malabsorption of fluids, malabsorption of dietary nutrients, vitamin deficiency, osteoporosis, fatigue, anemia, diarrhea, weight loss, bloating, flatulence, abdominal pain, constipation, nausea, growth retardation in children, seizures, and other unexplained neurologic symptoms.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~34~~35 wherein ~~said related disease or disorder~~the ailment is irritable bowel syndrome, microscopic colitis, chronic diarrhea, chronic liver disease, gastroesophageal reflux, hepatitis C, hepatic disease, Crohn's disease, an autoimmune disease, autism, alcoholism, idiopathic neurologic syndromes, or neuropsychiatric syndromes.

38-64. (Cancelled)